

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SUSLOV'S FAINT PRAISE OF BREZHNEV

1. SUSLOV, IN HIS SPEECH AT KREMLIN RECEPTION HONORING
BREZHNEV ON THE DAY OF HIS BIRTHDAY, DELIVERED MUCH LAUDATORY
RHETORIC, BUT HIS PRAISE DID NOT GO BEYOND FRAMEWORK OF
BREZHNEV, THE TALENTED AND FAITHFUL SERVANT OF THE PARTY
AND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND THE EXECUTOR OF THEIR POLITICES.
THESE LIMITS WERE IN FACT UNDERLINED IN STRIKINGLY PRECISE
LANGUAGE. SUSLOV NOTED THAT:

--WITH EVERY NEW ASSIGNMENT ENTRUSTED TO BREZHNEV BY THE
PARTY, HIS CAPABILITIES DEVELOPED AS "TALENTED ORGANIZER, FIRM
LEADER, AND FAR-SEEING POLITICAL." (NOTE: THE WORD USED FOR
"LEADER" WAS "RUKOVODITAL"--A TERM ALSO TRANSLATABLE AS
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"EXECUTIVE" AND IN ANY CASE CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF THE CONNOTA-
TIONS OF "VOZHD". THE TERM USED FOR "POLITICIAN"--"POLITIK" HAS
FAVORABLE CONNOTATIONS, IN CONTRAST TO ITS UNFAVORABLE TWIN,
"POLITIKAN"; NEVERTHELESS, EVEN "POLITIK" IS A STRIKINGLY LIMITED
TERM TO USE IN DESCRIBING BREZHNEV.)

--GIVEN THESE TALENTS, IT WAS NATURAL THAT "IT WAS PRECISELY YOU, LEONID IL'ICH, WHOM THE PARTY AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE ENTRUSTED THE MOST IMPORTANT, THE MOST HONORABLE, AND THE MOST DIFFICULT WORK IN ELECTING YOU THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF CC CPSU, AND FOR OVER 12 YEARS YOU HAVE JUSTIFIED THIS HIGH TRUST WITH HONOR." (NOTE: THE REFERENCE TO THE NUMBER OF YEARS OF BREZHNEV'S TENURE WAS SET IN A POSITIVE CONTEXT BUT IT ALSO UNDERLINES FACT THAT HE SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.)

--SOVIET PEOPLE SEE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEADING ORGANS OF THE PARTY, "AND IN YOUR PERSONAL ACTIVITIES, LEONID IL'ICH, THE EMBODIMENT OF COLLECTIVITY, REASON, AND WILL OF THE CPSU..."

--THE SOVIET PEOPLE STAND "IN MONOLITHIC UNITY WITH THE CPSU AND ITS CENTRAL COMMITTEE HEADED BY YOU." (NOTE: THE PEOPLE ARE NOT PORTRAYED AS STANDING IN MONOLITHIC UNITY DIRECTLY WITH BREZHNEV.)

--AMONG BREZHNEV'S POSITIVE TRAITS IS THE -ABILITY TO LISTEN TO THE OPINION OF COMRADES."

--CITING THE EXAMPLE SET BY BREZHNEV: "THIS IS THE KIND OF LEADER THE COMMUNIST PARTY PRODUCES AND ELECTS."
MATLOCK

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